

Michigan State Board of Education

Model Code of Student Conduct

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Purpose:

- Present a revised Model Code of Student Conduct for SBE approval
- Intent is to ensure school safety and foster healthy learning communities

Rationale for a Revised Model Code of Student Conduct

- The current Model Code of Student Conduct was approved July 19, 2001
- The current model code relies heavily on outdated zero tolerance policy language and practices
- The proposed revised code aligns with the newly adopted Policy on Reducing Student Suspensions and Expulsions

NASBE Grant Expectations

- Develop and present to State Board of Education a model policy on alternatives to suspension and expulsion
- Develop a revised State Board Model Code of Student Conduct
- Develop an online toolkit and resources to support alternatives to suspension and expulsion
- Disseminate online toolkit to districts and stakeholders

Michigan School Discipline Task Force

- 29 task force members met on January 30, 2014
- Representation from numerous disciplines:
 - SBE members: Mrs. Fecteau, Mrs. Straus
 - school district educators and administrators
 - state education organization representatives
 - MDE and other state level stakeholders

Michigan School Discipline Task Force

- Task force members provided feedback on one or more sections of the school code during the meeting
- A larger group of educators and stakeholders provided input on the proposed revisions online

Michigan School Discipline Task Force

- In March, an e-mail was also sent to local school administrators and directors of educational associations posing targeted questions on the revised code
- The comments were integrated into the revised code

Noteworthy Proposed Changes

- Propose that schools shorten the length of short-term suspensions from ten (10) to five (5) days

Noteworthy Proposed Changes

- Encourage schools to adopt research- and/or evidenced-based educational and behavioral strategies and practices to create positive learning environments where students develop social-emotional as well as academic skills
- Students are called upon to honor their responsibility to their communities, especially when they cause harm to others

Noteworthy Proposed Changes

- Procedures are outlined to protect students' due process rights when they are accused of misconduct
- Especially important when a student is accused of an offense that could prompt long-term suspension, expulsion and/or criminal charges

Noteworthy Proposed Changes

- Instead of categorizing offenses into level-one, -two, and –three violations, level one and level two offenses are combined
- The remaining offenses (level three violations) are identified as “very serious violations”

Noteworthy Proposed Changes

- Out-of-school suspensions are classified as neither excused or unexcused absences
- Instead, absences resulting from suspensions or expulsions are classified as “Disciplinary Absences”

Next Steps

- Seek public comment on the Revised Model Code of Student Conduct
- Request adoption of the revised code at the August SBE meeting